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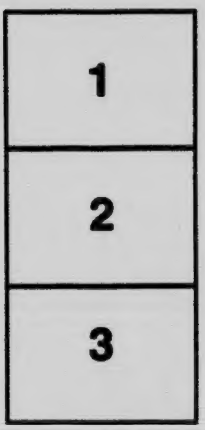

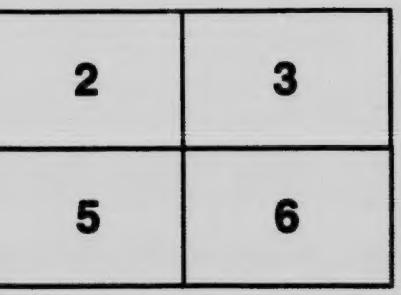

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VALEDI

OF

MAYOR LIC

On leaving the Mayoralty

JANUARY 2

DICTORY

OF

LIGHTHALL,

rality Chair of Westmount.

Y 22nd, 1908.

VALEDICTORY OF

On leaving the Mayoralty Chai

—

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,

It is the usage on retirin
Mayor to say a few words of valedic

The present occasion being one up
by the departure of the last member
Ex-Mayors Walker and Evans, as wel
midway between the old and the new,
renders it particularly appropriate that
view of the history of the development

Twelve or thirteen years ago, at
and Evans, whose great services i
Westmount was a rural municipality,
Till 1874 it had been part of St Henri,
In 1874 it was separated from both of t
a Town Charter was obtained. In 18
altered to "Westmount." The popula

Six years ago, when I became a me
village, with a population of some 4
pu. [illegible] ading city of Canada, alth
to [illegible] en that position. As the c
gr[illegible] ropolis of Canada it has an
circ[illegible] nces have frequently arisen wh
bility of representing the English-spe
also the largest English-speaking city
truthfully be said to be the third in influ
is respected in all quarters, and its in
municipal affairs as worthy of attentio
as large as in most cities and towns.

It has been a pride to me to be th
shall ever remember with gratitude the
during three successive years unanim
within its gift. I thank my present
courtesy and good-will, and take leav
friendly feeling.

5878

Y OF MAYOR LIGHTHALL,

y Chair of Westmount, Jan. 22nd, 1903.

L,

retiring from the Mayoralty, for the outgoing valedictory.

one upon which a break with the past is made members of the original Council of the Town, as well as of myself, who occupied a position e new, as to length of service,—it is one which ate that something of the kind should be said in opment of the community.

go, at the period of entry of Messrs. Walker rvices it would be ingratitude to overlook, pality, under the old name Cote St. Antoine. Henri, together with Notre Dame des Graces. oth of them as an incorporated village. In 1890 In 1895 the name "Cote St. Antoine" was population in 1890 was 1850.

ne a member, it was scarcely more than a large some 4,500;—to-day it is to all intents and da, although as yet its population is a small one s the chief residential suburb of the great and t has an influence as wide as the Dominion, and risen which have thrown upon us the responsi- glish-speaking community of Montreal. It is ng city in the Province of Quebec, and may in influence in this great Province. Its name d its institutions are regarded by students of ttention. Its wealth per head is three times wns.

to be the captain of this splendid ship, and I ude the kindness with which the Council has unanimously elected me to the highest place resent fellow-Councillors for their constant ke, leave of each one of them with sincere

SUNICE
8785

The officials I also thank for their courtesy and cheerful attention to their duties during my regime. Lastly, but very emphatically, I have a lively sense of the backing which the people of Westmount have cheerfully given to all attempts that have been made to pursue a policy of progress, and also for the many kind expressions which have come to myself personally from them. The fact that each of the candidates in my Ward offered to withdraw if I should come out renders fitting a word of thanks to them,—and I do not forget the many requests from the Ward to accept re-election.

I will respectfully venture a word to the incoming Councillors, trusting that it may not be taken amiss :—

You will find, gentlemen, that you have undertaken an honorable office. It is, however, an office of service, and not one bearing tribute to vanity, and your satisfaction will lie in the achievement of public improvements, and in a successful administration of the business entrusted to you rather than in any honours or expressions. With the satisfaction of your own conscience, you will not trouble concerning mere repute ; nor will you worry yourself about the occasional indiscretion of some extreme critic. A critical element is natural and necessary, and such men are for the most part conspicuously honest and entitled to their differences of opinion. Remember that most of the people who approve are generally silent, but they are there just the same.

Your first object, during your term, should be to obtain a general acquaintance with the main business of the Town, and it is well to reserve one's speech for some time until acquainted with the matters in hand. Obtain and keep at hand copies of all the principal contracts, and all past reports and circulars, plans and charter, and request statements to be made for you of any figures or facts which you may require for your information. Your business will be to act as Directors, and you will do well not to attempt to perform the small details of business, but to place the responsibility of this upon the officials. The Town should be run as far as possible by Department and not by Committee. In matters of policy take a broad view where possible, especially with regard to the future of the Town, unmoved by present necessity or clamour. For example, choose always a wide street, and always a continuous street ; do not underpay your employees, but expect the best service from all ; do not lightly change a policy ; keep in touch with matters of municipal improvement by following the Municipal JOURNAL and the proceedings of the Conventions of municipalities ; avoid the least suspicion of personal advantage in your dealings with the affairs of the Town ; undertake responsibility for no other Councillor's acts or views but your own ; overlook momentary incidents of debate and heated expressions ; and seek to press forward the business.

To the incoming Mayor, I would say be absolutely impartial, having good will towards all, forgetful of little conflicts, active in pushing on the order of

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business, discriminating large affairs from small, shortening discussion of the small, giving rein to the large, and pushing the latter forward with special energy to a conclusion. You will be required to watch for emergencies of disease, fire, crime and litigation, and other matters involving great interests to the Town, and it is unnecessary to say that you will be attentive to all. Let me ask you to remember our French population who so greatly appreciate a courtesy. You will find yourself in a position than which few could be more satisfactory to one who desires a large and interesting field, for it will be easy for you to keep in connection with the public men, and public movements of Canada, and the progress of modern civilization, which is now largely concerned with Municipal questions. And you will remember in all this to aim at keeping high the honor of the Town which is entrusted to your hands. The future of Westmount will, in all probability, be a matter of much interest, and a computation made at my request, which Mr. Minto can present to each Councillor, if desired, shows that provision ought to be made for the ultimate growth of from 60,000 to 80,000 persons within our present limits.

The site of the Town, on its mountain side, is unique and will unquestionably cause it in the end to be the beautiful home of the wealthiest and most influential community in Canada. You will, therefore, do well to build so that when that time arrives it shall not be said that the Council of 1903 were narrow and backward or afraid to plan for the future. Do not be afraid of the criticism of any one who would check our development, and be assured that if our people really understand your objects they will be found ready to back whatever is reasonable and fair.

For the works already done, credit should be given to past Councillors, some of whom have been too severely critized. The Cote St. Antoine Improvement Association, in 1889 and 1890 brought about a spirit of advance in the place. The sewer system owes much to Ex-Mayor A. C. Hutchison. The Street Railway arrangements were principally the work of Ex-Mayor Matthew Hutchinson. It seems agreed that Ex-Mayor Walker is to be considered the father of the existing Park and of the opening of several streets, particularly on the upper levels, and also of the land tax. The suggestion for the Public Library was introduced effectively in the Council by Ex-Mayor Matthew Hutchinson, who had the project adopted, and afterwards I had the pleasure of devising the proposed lines and ornaments of the building. Victoria Hall was, I understand, the project of Ex-Mayor Redfern and Mr. D. W. Ross. But in all these matters, and in others such as the first small-pox outbreak, the greatest services were rendered by Ex-Mayor F. W. Evans, who then commanded our forces and worked with his accustomed energy. To him is also due the financial reorganization and the present financial system of the Town's affairs. In the earliest days the Hon. J. K. Ward rendered service during a long term as Mayor. Ex-Mayor John Macfarlane was chiefly

nstrumental in obtaining the original To
parks and squares is due to Mr. Redfern.
rendered by former Councillors.

I do not undertake to defend their poli
have accomplished. Other names also are
will appear elsewhere.

Rendering brief account of my own te
claim the leading share in the system o
building lines, the new Charter, which soo
organization of the Warminton defences,
Murray Avenue, and the curved line of We
Street Railway to the level of West-mount
against electric companies, the union of t
special service in the building and equipm
that my efforts for improved political rep
next Dominion Parliament. As items of p
the development of the upper levels ou
ally in the matters of railway service an
Water System; of Electric Light Plant (
but three years more to prepare, if you
termination of the present contract); filt
contagious diseases hospital; improved pav
the Park system (which the authorities on
at least five per cent of such a town); comp
finest street, if possible, in Canada; the
completion of the building line system;
municipal accounting" system; the intr
the judicious increase of our territory, w
maintenance of friendly relations with
assured that both Ex-Mayors Evans and Wa
to furnish the new Council with any infor
for myself I hope to continue to fight some
the Union of Canadian Municipalities.

In accordance with a pleasant custom i
to allow me to possess myself of one little
I have had the pleasure of sitting as Ma
replace by an equivalent. I will now ask C
a few words, after which I will vacate the C
mate and friend, Mr. Cross, from whom
address.

ginal Town Charter. Th[illegible]m of small
dfern. These are only a few of the services

heir policies, but only to recognize what they
lso are present to my mind, but their records

own terms of office, I think I may fairly
stem of permanent sidewalks, that of the
hich sooner or later must be adopted, the
fences, several street improvements, such as
e of Westmount Avenue, the carrying of the
t[illegible]ount Avenue, the battle for our rights
o[illegible] of the Municipalities of Canada, some
equipment of the Library, and I am told
ical representation will have effect in the
ms of policy for the future, among others,
evels ought to be recommended, especi-
vice and drainage; also ownership of the
Plant (for which I may remark you have
if you would be ready a year before the
t); filtration of the water; erection of a
ved pavements and sidewalks; extension of
ties on the subject agree ought to comprise
; completion of Westmount Avenue as the
; the widening of Cote St. Antoine Road;
stem; passage of the Charter; a "uniform
he introduction of the building by-law;
tory, westward and northward; and the
with surrounding municipalities. Be
and Walker, and I, will be glad at all times
y information if it is in our power, and as
t some of the battles of the Town through
ies.

ustom in We[illegible]rn towns, I ask the Council
e little re[illegible], the plain armchair in which
as Mayor, which, if so permitted, I will
w ask Councillors Evans and Walker to say
e the Chair to make way for my old class-
whom we may doubtless expect a short